

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 00189 071938Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 OES-06 /096 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2903

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 189

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY

SUBJECT: CHILEAN PLANS FOR A NEW BASE IN THE ANTARCTIC

1. THE JANUARY 6, 1977 EDITION OF SANTIAGO'S LA TERCERA CONTAINED AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY CAPTAIN DE FRAGATA (R) HERNAN LORCA FULLER, DIRECTOR OF THE CHILEAN ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE (INACH), THAT BOTH INACH AND THE CHILEAN NATIONAL DEFENSE STAFF WERE PLANNING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FOURTH BASE IN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY CLAIMED BY CHILE. LORCA CLAIMED THAT PLANNING FOR THE BASE BEGAN TWO YEARS AGO AND IS STILL ONGOING; HOWEVER, HE GAVE NO SPECIFIC DATE FOR BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION OTHER THAN TO SAY IT WOULD TAKE PLACE "OVER THE LONG TERM." LORCA DESCRIBED THE IDEAL SITE FOR THE BASE AS BEING IN MARGARITA BAY SOUTH OF ADELAIDE ISLAND. THE BASE WILL HAVE BOTH AN OCEAN PORT AND AIR LANDING FACILITIES AND WILL PROBABLY BE MANNED BY A MIXED COMPLEMENT OF ARMY, AIR FORCE, AND NAVY PERSONNEL AS WELL AS CIVILIAN SCIENTISTS.

2. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT THE BASE WOULD CONTAIN YEAR-ROUND LIVING QUARTERS, METEOROLOGICAL EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES FOR STUDYING KRILL AND FISH BEHAVIOR UNDER ICE CAPS. LORCA SAID THAT PRESENT EXPLORATIONS FOR A BASE SITE IS BEING HAMPERED BY THE PRESENCE OF ICE IN MARGARIATA BAY AND CHILE'S LACK OF MODERN ICE-BREAKERS.

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3. EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER CALLED CAPTIAN LORCA IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN MORE EXACT INFORMATION AS TO THE ULTIMATE SITE AND POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION DATA. LORCA ADMITTED THAT THE BASE WAS MORE A PERSONAL DREAM THAN A REALITY. HE RELEASED THE INFORMATION AT THIS TIME, HE SAID, TO COINCIDE WITH PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET'S PLANNED VISIT TO THE ANTARCTIC BEGINNING JANUARY

14, 1977, IN THE HOPE THAT PUBLICITY OBTAINED MIGHT SERVE TO
STIR UP INTEREST IN A NEW BASE. THE IMPRESSION THAT LORCA
GAVE WAS THAT IF HIS DREAM EVER BECOMES REALITY, IT WILL BE
A LONG TIME IN THE COMING.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, METEOROLOGY, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY BASES, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: TPHY, CI, XV, (LORCA FULLER, HERNAN)
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